

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 10, 2003. Claims 1-16 and 18-48 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 14, 18 and 31 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-16, and the indication that Claims 20, 23, 26, 28, 29/20, 29/23, 29/26, 29/28, 30/20, 30/23, 30/26, 30/28, 33, 36, 39, 41, 42/33, 42/36, 42/39, 42/41, 43/33, 43/36, 43/39, and 43/41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and with no change in scope. Those latter claims have not been so rewritten herein, since, for the reasons given below, their respective base claims are believed to be allowable.

Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 29/18, 29/19, 29/21, 29/22, 29/24, 29/25, 30/18, 30/19, 30/21, 30/22, 30/24, 30/25, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 42/31, 42/32, 42/34, 42/35, 42/37, 42/38, 43/31, 43/32, 43/34, 43/35, 43/37, and 43/38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,355,859 (Herloski et al.).

Applicants have again carefully studied the prior art and the Office Action, but for the following reasons, find themselves entirely unable to agree with the outstanding rejection.

The independent claims and the prior art have been discussed in some detail in previous papers, and it is not believed to be necessary to repeat that discussion in full. Accordingly, Applicants will address only the following points.

As is discussed at length in the present application, the aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 18 is intended to solve a problem encountered in scanning systems of the over-field scanning type ("OFS"). As is explained in the application, such a

system is one in which the light beam to be scanned has an intensity distribution across its diameter that is substantially Gaussian, and in which the beam is actually scanned by means of a rotating polygonal mirror. In an OFS system, moreover, the beam is delivered to the rotating mirror by optics arranged such that the beam width, upon the beam's arrival at the rotating mirror, is greater than the width of the facet of the rotating mirror upon which the beam is incident. That is, only a portion of the beam width is reflected by the rotating mirror, and is scanned across the photosensitive member. Claim 18 recites, among other elements:

“an incident optical system arranged to direct the light beam emerging from the laser unit to strike an optical deflector *while maintaining a width of the light beam wider than a width of a deflecting surface of the optical deflector in a main scanning direction* [emphasis added]”.

Herloski does not disclose an OFS or UFS. In particular, nothing has been found in *Herloski* that would teach or suggest any means by which the laser beam is caused to have a width greater, upon arrival at the rotating mirror 10, than the width of the scanning facet (“scanning polygon”, in the terminology of *Herloski*), as recited in Claim 18. Significantly, this-recitation of Claim 18 is not mentioned anywhere in the Office Action as far as Applicants can see, and does not appear to have been considered by the Examiner in formulating the outstanding rejection. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that the rejection is improper, and should be withdrawn.

Should the Examiner not withdraw this rejection in her next paper, it is respectfully requested that she point out disclosure in *Herloski* of the mentioned recited feature.

Claim 31, the other independent claim under rejection, is believed to be allowable for the same reason as is Claim 18.

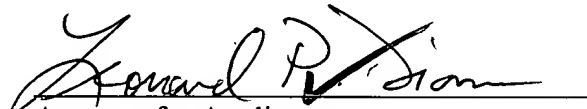
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims under rejection are each dependent from one or the other of independent Claims 18 and 31, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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